

## Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-15 DRC-01 CPR-02 /189 W

----- 012091

R 032308Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6022

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4816

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJ: USSR-CHILE BREAK IN RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 11826

1. AN OFFICER OF A FRIENDLY EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO HAS TOLD US THAT THE "SECOND IN COMMAND" OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY (PRESUMABLY MINISTER COUNSELOR IGOR B. PUCHKOV) HAD REVEALED TO A WESTERN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD WANTED TO "SUSPEND" RATHER THAN "BREAK" RELATIONS WITH CHILE AFTER THE MILITARY COUP OF SEPT 11. THE RUSSIAN ALLEGEDLY SAID THAT AMBASSADOR ALEXANDR V. BASOV HAD GONE TO SEE THE JUNTA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ADMIRAL HUERTA TO TELL HIM THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS FORCED BY THE NEW SITUATION TO SUSPEND RELATIONS AND TO WITHDRAW ITS STAFF, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT WISH TO "BREAK" RELATIONS. THE IMPLICATION CONVEYED BY PUCHKOV WAS THAT THE SOVIETS FELT COMPELLED BY THEIR POSITION AS LEADERS OF THE LEFTIST WORLD TO GO ON RECORD AGAINST THE COUP, BUT HOPED SOMEHOW TO RESUME NORMAL RELATIONS WHEN THINGS COOLED DOWN. ACCORDING TO PUCHKOV, ADMIRAL HUERTA WAS UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THIS SEMANTIC EXERCISE AND TOLD THE RUSSIAN THAT WITHDRAWAL OF STAFF CERTAINLY IMPLIED A BREAK IN RELATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS, AND CHILE MUST SO INTERPRET IT.

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2. COMMENT: PERHAPS THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE AND MOSCOW SIMPLY GOT THEIR SIGNALS CONFUSED. THE SANTIAGO PRESS ON SEPT 26 NOTED THAT MINCOUNSELOR PUCHKOV, RATHER THAN THE AMBASSADOR, HAD CALLED UPON ADMIRAL HUERTA TO "CLARIFY" THIS POINT (SANTIAGO 4627). ON THE OTHER HAND, WE NOTE REFTEL REPORTS THAT THE SOVIET PRESS HAS CONSISTENTLY USED THE TERM "BREAK." IT MAY BE THAT THE SOVIETS DID TRY TO PRESERVE SOME HOPE OF RELATIONS WITH THE JUNTA, BUT WERE FORCED OFF THE FENCE BY THE CHILEANS. IN THIS CONNECTION, I MIGHT MENTION THAT HUERTA TOLD ME SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY THAT HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HARDER AND MORE UNCOMPROMISING IN HIS PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH THE RUSSIANS THAN THE LATTER FOUND WELCOME.  
DAVIS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Subject:** USSR-CHILE BREAK IN RELATIONS  
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